

Amendment To The Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

What is claimed is:

1-15 (Cancelled)

16 (Currently amended) A recombinant virus selected from the group consisting of adenovirus, adeno-associated virus and herpes virus, said recombinant virus comprising a nucleic acid ~~selected from the group~~ consisting of :

~~(a) nucleic acids encoding a the p53 Val135 mutated form of p53 which antagonizes wild-type p53-mediated neuronal cell degeneration *in vitro*;~~

~~————(b) nucleic acids comprising a the site for binding of p53 to DNA consisting of SEQ ID NO:2; and~~

~~————(c) (a) nucleic acids having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 encoding an antisense RNA which inhibits expression of p53.~~

17-21 (Cancelled)

22 (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting ~~toxicity~~ glutamate mediated ischemic neuronal cell death in cultured neuronal cells comprising: (a) administering to said cells a nucleic acid encoding an antisense RNA which inhibits expression of p53 wherein said nucleic acid has the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

23-24 (Cancelled)

25 (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the nucleic acid is within a vector.

26 (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the vector is a replication defective virus.